5. (Amended) Method according to claim 3, **characterized by** determining a width of a respective subband according to the properties of the human auditory system.

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 3, **characterized by** attenuating every subband of the stereo difference signal which noise component lies above a signal component of a subband of the audio signal corresponding to that of the stereo difference signal so that the noise component of the subband of the stereo difference lies below the respective absolute value of masking.

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 7, **characterized by** subtracting a respective influence factor ($K_O$, ..., $K_N$) from the attenuation factor of a respective subband to reduce the influence of noise in the signal component to the attenuation signal.

10. (Amended) Method according to claim 6, **characterized by** determining the noise component of a subband of the stereo difference signal on basis of its noise power which is determined by filtering an in quadrature component of the stereo difference signal into the respective subband and rms filtering the corresponding subband.

12. (Amended) Method according to claim 6, **characterized by** determining the signal component corresponding to a subband of the stereo difference signal according to the fieldstrength of the received fm signal, a volume of output sound, a background noise level, the signal amplitude power of the audio signal, a speed of a vehicle within which the stereo signal is reproduced, and/or the ratio of the signal power to the noise power of the difference signal of the corresponding subband.

14. (Amended) Computer program product, comprising computer program means adapted to perform the method steps as defined in claim 1 when it is executed on a computer or digital signal processor.